

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the Application.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information providing apparatus comprising:
a first authentication means for authenticating a first information processing unit;
a second authentication means for authenticating a second information processing unit
or a third information processing unit;

a reception control means for controlling the reception of a request to send contents
and a key and data for identifying said second information processing unit or data for
identifying said third information processing unit, said request and said data being supplied
from said first information processing unit;

a communication control means for controlling, if said data for identifying said
second information processing unit are received, the transmission of said request to send said
contents and said key to said second information processing unit in a procedure
corresponding to said second information processing unit, and, [[if]] (the transmission of)
said contents and said key, ~~are received~~ and if said data for identifying said third information
processing unit are received from said second information processing unit, the transmission
of said request to send said contents and said key to said third information processing unit
and the reception of said contents and said key from said third information processing unit in
a procedure corresponding to said third information processing unit; and

a transmission control means for controlling the transmission of said contents and said
key to said first information processing unit.

Claim 2 (Original): The information providing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a conversion means for converting at least one of a encoding scheme and an encryption scheme in which said contents is encoded and encrypted into one of a predetermined encoding scheme and a predetermined encryption scheme.

Claim 3 (Original): The information providing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said first information processing unit is a portable electronic device for reproducing said contents and said second information processing unit and said third information processing unit are servers each including a contents server and a key server and each having a different procedure in which contents and its key are supplied

Claim 4 (Original): The information providing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a server licensed compliant module which is constituted as a proxy server.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An information providing method comprising the steps of:

authenticating a first information processing unit;

authenticating a second information processing unit or a third information processing unit;

controlling the reception of a request to send contents and a key and data for identifying said second information processing unit or data for identifying said third information processing unit, said request and said data being supplied from said first information processing unit;

controlling, if said data for identifying said second information processing unit are received, the transmission of said request to send said contents and said key to said second information processing unit in a procedure corresponding to said second information processing unit and said contents and said key, and, if ~~said contents and said key are received~~ ~~and~~ said data for identifying said third information processing unit are received from said second information processing unit, the transmission of said request to send said contents and said key to said third information processing unit and the reception of said contents and said key from said third information processing unit in a procedure corresponding to said third information processing unit; and

controlling the transmission of said contents and said key to said first information processing unit.

Claim 6 (Original): The information providing method according to Claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

converting at least one of a encoding scheme and an encryption scheme in which said contents is encoded and encrypted into one of a predetermined encoding scheme and a predetermined encryption scheme.

Claim 7 (Original): The information providing method according to Claim 5, wherein said first information processing unit is a portable electronic device for reproducing said contents and said second information processing unit and said third information processing unit are servers each including a contents server and a key server and each having a different procedure in which contents and its key are supplied.

Claim 8 (Original): The information providing method according to Claim 5, wherein said method is executed by a proxy server including a server licensed compliant module.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium storing a computer-readable program comprising the steps of:

authenticating a first information processing unit;

authenticating a second information processing unit or a third information processing unit;

controlling the reception of a request to send contents and a key and data for identifying said second information processing unit or data for identifying said third information processing unit, said request and said data being supplied from said first information processing unit;

controlling, if said data for identifying said second information processing unit are received, the transmission of said request to send said contents and said key to said second information processing unit in a procedure corresponding to said second information processing unit, ~~and, if~~ and said contents and said key ~~are received and, and, if~~ said data for identifying said third information processing unit are received from said second information processing unit, the transmission of said request to send said contents and said key to said third information processing unit and the reception of said contents and said key from said third information processing unit in a procedure corresponding to said third information processing unit; and

controlling the transmission of said contents and said key are said first information processing unit.

Claim 10 (Original): An information processing apparatus comprising:
an authentication means for authenticating a first information providing unit;
a transmission control means for controlling the transmission of any one of a request to send contents and a key to said first information providing unit, data for identifying a second information providing unit for providing said contents and said key, and data for identifying a third information providing unit for providing said contents and said key; and
a reception control means for controlling the reception of said contents and said key supplied from said second information providing unit or said third information providing unit to said first information providing unit.

Claim 11 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said first information providing unit is a proxy server having a server licensed compliant module and said second information providing unit and said third information providing unit are servers each including a contents server and a key server and each having a different procedure in which contents and its key are supplied.

Claim 12 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said information processing apparatus is a portable electronic device for reproducing said contents.

Claim 13 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to Claim 10, having a download program capable of downloading contents from any of said second information providing unit and said third information providing unit.

Claim 14 (Original): An information processing method comprising the steps of:
authenticating a first information providing unit;

controlling the transmission of any one of a request to send contents and a key to said first information providing unit, data for identifying a second information providing unit for providing said contents and said key, and data for identifying a third information providing unit for providing said contents and said key; and

controlling the reception of said contents and said key supplied from said second information providing unit or said third information providing unit to said first information providing unit.

Claim 15 (Original): The information processing method according to Claim 14, wherein said first information providing unit is a proxy server having a server licensed compliant module and said second information providing unit and said third information providing unit are servers each having a contents server and a key server and each having a different procedure in which contents and its key are supplied.

Claim 16 (Original): The information processing method according to Claim 14, wherein said method is executed by a portable electronic device for reproducing said contents.

Claim 17 (Original): The information processing method according to Claim 14, wherein each of said reception controlling steps is executed by a download program capable of downloading contents from any of said second information providing unit and said third information providing unit.

Claim 18 (Original): A program storage medium storing a computer-readable program comprising:

authenticating a first information providing unit;

controlling the transmission of any one of a request to send contents and a key to said first information providing unit, data for identifying a second information providing unit for providing said contents and said key, and data for identifying a third information providing unit for providing said contents and said key; and

controlling the reception of said contents and said key supplied from said second information providing unit or said third information providing unit to said first information providing unit.